

Front Page Edit Page Other Page

Date:

FIGURED IN ARMY-McCARTHY HEARINGS

Annie Lee Moss Revealed As Dues-Paying Communist

By EDWARD J. MOWERY

NEW YORK, Oct. 30—Mrs. Annie Lee Moss, who denied under oath in the tempestuous, 1954 (Army-McCarthy) hearings that she was a Communist, was revealed today to be exactly that—a dues-paying Communist party member, then entrusted with classified messages in the sensitive Pentagon code room.

This revelation was contained in a report of the Subversive Activities Control Board and made available to Alice Widener, publisher of the weekly U. S. A. magazine.

The report, based upon a rehearing of the Moss case on orders of the United States Court of Appeals (to examine pertinent FBI files), disclosed that testimony before the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee by Mrs. Mary Markward has been completely substantiated.

Mrs. Markward, a veteran undercover FBI agent, who joined the Communist Party, traced Mrs. Moss' Communist activity back to 1944. Mrs. Moss, after the hearings, was hailed as a victim of Congressional witch-hunters and featured in articles and one telecast as a kind of martyr.

FBI FILES

The Subversive Activities Control Board's rehearing and findings is a direct result of a Supreme Court decision to make



ANNIE LEE MOSS

FBI confidential files available to an accused subversive.

The Communist Party has been fighting efforts of the Attorney General to require it to register as a subversive organization for years and has carried the case to the Supreme Court three times. In the Moss case the Communist Party appeared in the role of respondent, attacking testimony of Mrs. Markward against Mrs. Moss as perjurious.

However, when the FBI records confirmed Mrs. Markward, the use backfired and

Mrs. Moss was tagged as a Red by the Communist Party's own records.

In its belated report the board said those records gave the lie to Mrs. Moss who repeatedly denied she belonged to the Red conspiracy.

"Mrs. Markward's FBI reports, being 12 in number," the report declared, "corroborate (her) testimony in the Moss security hearing. The situation that has resulted . . . is that the party's own records and the authenticity of which it (Communist Party) does not dispute . . . show that Annie Lee Moss, 72d st., Southwest, Washington, was a party member.

"Yet the Communist Party on several occasions charged that witness Markward committed perjury . . ."

FACES PERJURY

*Immediate repercussions of the board's report, which was issued as a "recommended decision" of member Francis A. Cherry, are policies for security risks and the possibility of a perjury indictment against Mrs. Moss.

Testimony in the Moss case during the 1954 Senate hearings discloses that Mrs. Moss' Communist background was known, via FBI reports to the Civil Service Commission, the Army and various, "loyalty" boards long before she was identified as

a Red in open Senate hearings. In her testimony on Mar. 11, 1954, Mrs. Markward said she became a key official of the Communist Party in Washington knew all the Communists in the area and, as membership director of the Communist Party knew the name of Annie Lee Moss as a dues-paying member.

Her reports to the FBI continuously revealed the activities, names and addresses of Commu-

pel any doubt that there was only one Annie Lee Moss involved, Roy M. Cohn, subcommittee chief counsel, told the Senators:

"There is only one Annie Lee Moss FBI file, and only one Annie Lee Moss Department of Justice file."

CLEARED IN 1948

Despite the available background on Mrs. Moss, the testimony showed that she was "cleared" by the Loyalty Board in 1948, her case was post-audited by the Loyalty Review Board in 1949 and she was transferred to the office of the Signal Corps' chief signal officer on Dec. 15, 1950.

On Jan. 21, 1951, at a new "loyalty" hearing, she was rated "eligible" for the sensitive Pentagon post of receiving and transmitting coded or cleared text messages "from all over the world."

The messages "originated overseas" or came from the State Department, Army Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, General Staff. And it was developed that the coding involved classified material.

FBI Director John Edgar Hoover, whose warnings concerning Mrs. Moss were ignored by the various securities agencies, asked consistently for action. Mr. Cohn told the subcommittee:

WARNING GIVEN

"Our information is that on Sept. 11, 1951, J. Edgar Hoover sent a memorandum to the Army and Civil Service.

"The message said: 'We have been advised that you have found Annie Lee Moss to be loyal and are allowing her to continue on the job. We wish to call your attention to the fact that Mrs. Markward *** is now available to come forward and testify.'"

An FBI report to the commission was formally submitted 16 days later. The commission merely referred the vital report to the Army, on Nov. 24, 1951.

Senator McClellan (Dem.), Arkansas, a subcommittee member, remarked:

"The Loyalty Board did not review it (the FBI material) or take any further action, but merely referred it to the Army, which took no action, and she is still in the service."

Mrs. Markward, her testimony disclosed, was ready to document her allegations against Mrs. Moss in formal testimony at any loyalty hearings. They ignored her. She testified only before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

" MRS. MOSS' DENIAL

At another point in the subcommittee hearings, Senator McClellan commented:

"Any of these persons (Mrs. Moss and others) whom Mrs. Markward named today as members of the Communist party, have been known to the FBI * * * to the heads of agencies who now have such persons in their employ. They did know it and were warned of their Communist connections."

In lengthy testimony, Mrs. Moss denied:

She was ever a Communist party member, ever seeing a Red party card, ever attending a Communist meeting or paying Communist party dues, or ever talking to a Communist. She never heard of Karl Marx!

The late Senator McCarthy (Rep.), Wisconsin, committee chairman, refused to permit Mrs. Moss to testify in March, 1951, after she pleaded illness. Senator McCarthy warned, however, that if her subsequent testimony involved perjury, he would insist on a grand jury indictment.

Mrs. Moss, suspended by the Army on Feb. 25, 1954, was reinstated in March, again suspended on Aug. 4 and rehired by the Army in the fall of 1955 for a "non-sensitive" job.

She is STILL on the Army pay roll.